



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL AIR & SPACE INTELLIGENCE CENTER (AF ISR AGENCY)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

18 August 2009

NASIC/SCVM (FOIA)
4180 Watson Way
Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-5648

John Greenewald, Jr.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a copy of documents pertaining to Project Moon Dust, our case number 2009-01092-F. A search was conducted for the records you requested and two documents were located. After reviewing the documents it was determined that they are releasable.

Your request was processed in the all other category. The document we are providing contains a total of 4 pages. All fees have been waived.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hulseman", is written over a horizontal line.

GERY D. HULSEMAN
NASIC Freedom of Information Act Manager

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SEQUENCE NR: CIP79025046 USER-MORIARITJ ID: 48352-97SEP22/12.20.07/A01

TITLE: MOON DUST, ADDITIONAL OBJECT REPORTEDLY FOUND NEAR SANTA CRUZ *U*

DOC NR: 6808005979, 3 PP

DOC DATE: 790821/1330

FICHE NR: DST79C013084

REQ NR: D-T3B49756 (DT3B49756)

INF CTY: BOLIVIA (BL)

INF LOC: SANTA CRUZ

INF DATE: 790819

COSATI: SPACE TECHNOLOGY (22)

CLASSIF: CONFIDENTIAL

DWNGRADE: CLASSIFIED BY: USDAO LA PAZ DATT AIRA; DECLASSIFY ON: ORIGINATING AGENCY'S DETERMINATION REQUIRED

RELEASE: NOFORN (NF)

TEXT: ENTIRE.

(U) ~~*NOFORN*~~ ONE OF THE LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER OF LA PAZ, EL DIARIO, CARRIED A FRONT PAGE STORY ON JULY 19, 1979 STATING THAT A SECOND UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT VERY SIMILAR TO THE FIRST ONE REPORTED, HAD BEEN FOUND IN SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT. (SEE IIR 6808005779 REGARDING FIRST OBJECT REPORTED): THE HEADLINE OF THIS STORY STATES QUOTE: NEW SPHERE FELL FROM SPACE IN SANTA CRUZ, UNQUOTE. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS, QUOTE: A SECOND FIRE BALL FELL FROM THE SKY EARLY IN THE MORNING OF THE SAME DAY THAT THE FIRST ONE WAS FOUND NEAR COTOCA. THIS SECOND ONE WAS FOUND 200 KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ ON THE FARM OF JUAN SAAVEDRA BY THE CAMPESINO GONZALO MENACHO VIVERAS. THE PLACE IS IN THE AREA OF BUEN RETIRO NEAR THE YARACANE RIVER. ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE CAMPESINO, AROUND 12:30 A.M. ON FRIDAY LAST WEEK HE HEARD A LOUD WHISTLING SOUND AND SAW A FIRE BALL FOLLOWED BY AN EXPLOSION. HE SAID THAT THE NEXT EVENING A SILENT AIRCRAFT THAT HAD THREE LIGHTS WAS FLYING OVER THE EXPLOSION AREA.

(U) ~~*NOFORN*~~ AFTER DAWN ON FRIDAY MORNING THE CAMPESINO STARTED LOOKING AROUND THE AREA OF THE IMPACT AND FOUND A SPHERE. AS IT WAS NOT HEAVY, HE TOOK IT HOME WHERE HE KEPT IT UNTIL HIS FRIEND FRAGILE, MENDEZ HURTADO LEARNED OF THE OTHER SPHERE IN COTOCA AND PASSED ON INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS SECOND SPHERE. THE MYSTERY OF FINDING THESE TWO SPHERES, EXACTLY ALIKE, IS THAT ACCORDING TO THE WITNESSES THEY WERE FIRE BALLS. THAT IS TO SAY THAT THESE SPHERES BECAME REAL BALLS OF FIRE WHEN THEY ENTERED THE ATMOSPHERE BECAUSE OF THE FRICTION AND AFTER A HIGH SPEED FALL THEY HIT THE GROUND. HOWEVER, IN THE AREA WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN FOUND, THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF THE IMPACT AND LOOKS AS THOUGH THE SPHERES LANDED SMOOTHLY. THE MATERIAL OF THE SPHERES IS KIND OF FRAGILE, BUT THEY ARE NOT DAMAGED (BY IMPACT) AND IN BOTH CASES THEY ONLY SHOW A HOLE (IN OUTER SKIN) WITH MELTED EDGES AND AN EXPLOSION (APPARENTLY) DESTROYED THE

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(U) ~~NOFORN~~ GONZALO MENACHO SAID THAT WHERE HE FOUND THE SPHERE HE SAW SOME BURNED PLANTS BUT HE DID NOT SEE ANY SIGN OF THE IMPACT ON THE SOFT GROUND. THE SPHERE FOUND IN THE NORTH OF THE SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT WEIGHS ABOUT SIX KILOGRAMS WITH A DIAMETER OF ABOUT 80 CENTIMETERS. THE OUTSIDE METAL IS SIMILAR TO COPPER, IS KIND OF DARK WITH LIGHT SPOTS, AND HAS APPARENTLY BEEN EXPOSED TO VERY HIGH TEMPERATURES. THE SPHERE IS MADE BY TWO PIECES PUT TOGETHER WITHOUT ANY RIVETS. ON THE TOP OF THE SPHERE YOU CAN SEE A HOLE OF IRREGULAR SHAPE AND NEXT TO IT ANOTHER SMALL ROUND HOLE. IN BOTH, THE MATERIAL IS MELTED, AT THE OTHER END OF THE SPHERE THERE IS A ROUND AREA THAT LOOKS LIKE A CORK IN A BOTTLE HELD IN PLACE BY THREE SEMIMELTED SCREWS. THE SPHERE WAS BROUGHT TO THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ BY NEWSMEN FROM A LOCAL RADIO STATION WHO INFORMED THIS NEWSPAPER OF THE DETAILS. THE CAMPESINO WHO FOUND THIS SPHERE CLAIMS IT AS HIS PROPERTY. THE SPHERE WAS ON PUBLIC DISPLAY ALL AFTERNOON AT THE RADIO STATION UNQUOTE.

(U) ~~NOFORN~~ REPORTING OFFICER COMMENT: A PICTURE ACCOMPANYING THE ABOVE ARTICLE SHOWS THIS SECOND UNIDENTIFIED SPHERE TO BE PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL IN APPEARANCE TO THE FIRST ONE. A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE AND PICTURE WERE FORWARDED TO DIA, DT-3 BY STATE DEPARTMENT POUCH ON JULY 20, 1979. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE POUCH WERE THE FOLLOWING RELATING TO THE FIRST SPHERE 35 MM COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS; AN UNDEVELOPED ROLL OF HOME MOVIE FILM; AND A COPY OF THE NEWSPAPER STORY.

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SEQUENCE NR: CIP79024087 USER-MORIARITJ ID: 09877-97SEP22/14.13.46/A01

TITLE: MOON DUST, OBJECT FOUND NEAR SANTA CRUZ *U*
DOC NR: 6808005779, 2 PP
DOC DATE: 790817/2000
FICHE NR: DST79C012507
REQ NR: D-T3B49756 (DT3B49756)
INF CTY: BOLIVIA (BL)
INF DATE: 790816-790817
COSATI: SPACE TECHNOLOGY (22)
CLASSIF: CONFIDENTIAL
DWNGRADE: CLASSIFIED BY: USDAO LA PAZ DATT/AIRA; DECLASSIFY ON:
ORIGINATING AGENCY'S DETERMINATION REQUIRED
RELEASE: NOFORN (NF)

TEXT: ENTIRE.

(u) ~~NOFORN~~ ON LATE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 16, 1979, THE EMBASSY HERE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT A STRANGE OBJECT HAD BEEN FOUND ON A FARM NEAR SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA. SOURCE STATED THAT THE OBJECT WAS ABOUT 70 CENTIMETERS IN DIAMETER AND TWO METERS IN CIRCUMFERENCE WITH A HOLE IN ONE SIDE AND A METAL SKIN COVERING OF APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF INCH THICKNESS. LATER THE OBJECT WAS DESCRIBED AS ABOUT THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF A BASKETBALL. SOURCE STATED THAT HE HAD FILM OF THIS OBJECT WHICH HE GAVE TO AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL ON AUGUST 17, 1979.

(u) ~~NOFORN~~ ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 17, 1979, THE SANTA CRUZ NEWSPAPER EL DEBER PUBLISHED A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON THIS INCIDENT. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS: QUOTE: PART OF WHAT COULD BE A SATELLITE FELL NEAR COTOCA. A PHENOMENON THAT COULD FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD ON BOLIVIA OCCURRED IN OUR CAPITAL WHEN A SPHERE WAS DISCOVERED THAT FELL APPROXIMATELY SIX DAYS AGO ON A FARM LOCATED 15 KM FROM COTOCA.

(u) ~~NOFORN~~ ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THIS NEWSPAPER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COL ARIEL COCA, THE SPHERE IS MADE OF SPECIAL LIGHT ALLOY BUT VERY RESISTANT, POSSIBLY A FUEL TANK OR A PART OF A SATELLITE. THE OBJECT DOES NOT HAVE ANY SIGNS OR MARKS THAT COULD IDENTIFY ITS ORIGIN NOR THE COUNTRY TO WHICH IT BELONGS.

(u) ~~NOFORN~~ COL COCA SAID THAT HE WILL INFORM HIS SUPERIORS OF THIS PHENOMENON SO THAT A STUDY CAN BE MADE TO DETERMINE RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE. THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE AREA WHERE THIS BALL OF FIRE (AS THEY CALLED IT) FELL, DELAYED IN TELLING THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE EVENT BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID THAT NO ONE WOULD LISTEN, UNQUOTE.

(u) ~~NOFORN~~ AN ACCOMPANYING PICTURE IN THE NEWSPAPER SHOWS COL COCA, COMMANDER OF THE BOLIVIAN AIR FORCE ACADEMY, EXAMINING A ROUND OBJECT WHICH REACHES ABOVE HIS KNEES AND APPEARS TO BE PERFECTLY

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ROUND EXCEPT FOR A HOLE (MISSING PORTION OF OUTER SKIN) WHICH IS ABOUT NINE INCHES IN DIAMETER

PFN INFORMATION: PART 001

RELATES: ARIEL COCA IS A MEMBER OF AIR FORCE ACAD.

PERSON: COCA, ARIEL
PROTITLE: COLONEL, DIRECTOR, COMMANDER
PERS CTY: BOLIVIA (BL)

FACILITY: AIR FORCE ACAD
FACL CTY: BOLIVIA (BL)

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